FICTION TO FUNCTION

STEFFIE CHAN

It means emigrating from Hong Ko

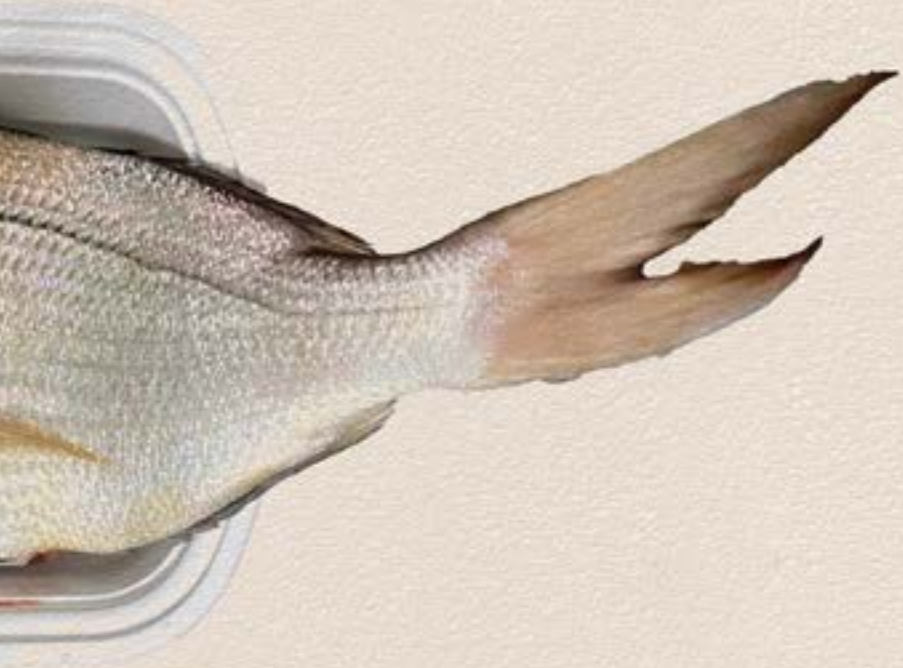
ng to New York at the age of two...

It means playing chess at the

PARK AFTER A LONG DAY'S WORK...

It means driving to Chinatown every wee

reused takeou



EKEND FOR FRESH FISH AND PREPARING IT IN A

UT CONTAINER...

It means reading today's pape

R IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET...

It means bringing fishballs t

o a Fourth of July barbeque...

It means showing off your songb

IRDS IN THE PARK EVERY MORNING...

It means making hotpot in a rice c

OOKER ON YOUR DORM ROOM CARPET...

It means buying a pound of cher

RIES FOR YOUR GRANDKIDS AT 9 PM...

It means waiters at Hong-Kong-style din

ice water inste

ERS TAKING ONE LOOK AT YOU AND GIVING YOU

AD OF HOT TEA...

It means forming a band with

YOUR FRIENDS AT 60 YEARS OLD...

It means spending a year in Chinatown wi

were busy navigatin

TH YOUR GREAT-AUNT BECAUSE YOUR PARENTS

IG NEW PROFESSIONS...

It means learning calligraphy t

O KEEP WITHERED FINGERS NIMBLE...

It means going to art class after scho

OL BECAUSE MOM IS WORKING OVERTIME...

It means not expecting your children to

burden t

O CALL YOU BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A

TO THEM...

It means pursuing architecture because y

you to become a s

YOUR PARENTS DIDN'T WORK SO HARD JUST FOR

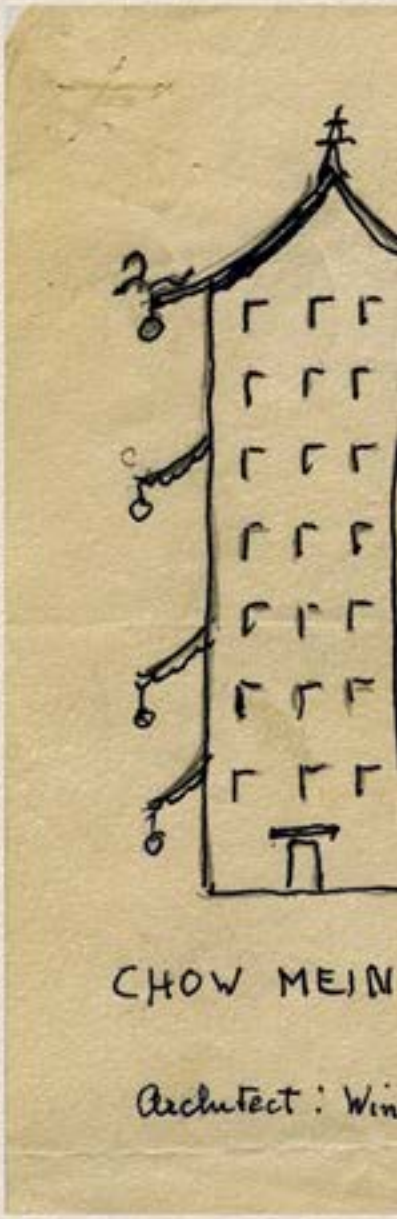
STARVING ARTIST...

It means expecting to die a

LONE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

And sometimes, to be Chinese American me
exaggerate your more exotic qualities, a
palatable package in order to su

CANS TO DILUTE SOME CULTURAL DIFFERENCES,
AND WRAP ALL OF YOURSELF UP NEATLY INTO A
URVIVE IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT.



Drawing by R

NYC's Chinatown reflects this contrad

ethnic enclave for its immigrant po

reductiveness of a

ROBERT MOSES

DICTING NATURE -- ITS ROLE AS AN ESSENTIAL
PULATION DOES NOT RESCUE IT FROM THE
AN OUTSIDER'S GAZE.

Tourists flock to Chinatown, seeing it as
dip their shoes in the runoff of its wet ma
grab drinks in "Dimes Square," China

S AN ETHNIC PLAYGROUND IN WHICH THEY CAN
ARKETS AND SWAP THEM FOR HEELS WHEN THEY
TOWN'S NEWEST AND HOTTEST NIGHTSPOT.

康

4033

佛有緣

PORT ARTHUR
BAR
KEK
WING FUNG

CHINESE
CANTON
RESTAURA
NOVELTY
LUCK
AURANT

FICTION TO

STEFFIE

FUNCTION

CHAN

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

Mercer St.
Crosby St.
Canal St.
Lafayette St.
Centre St.
Manhattan Br.
Division St.
E Broadway St.

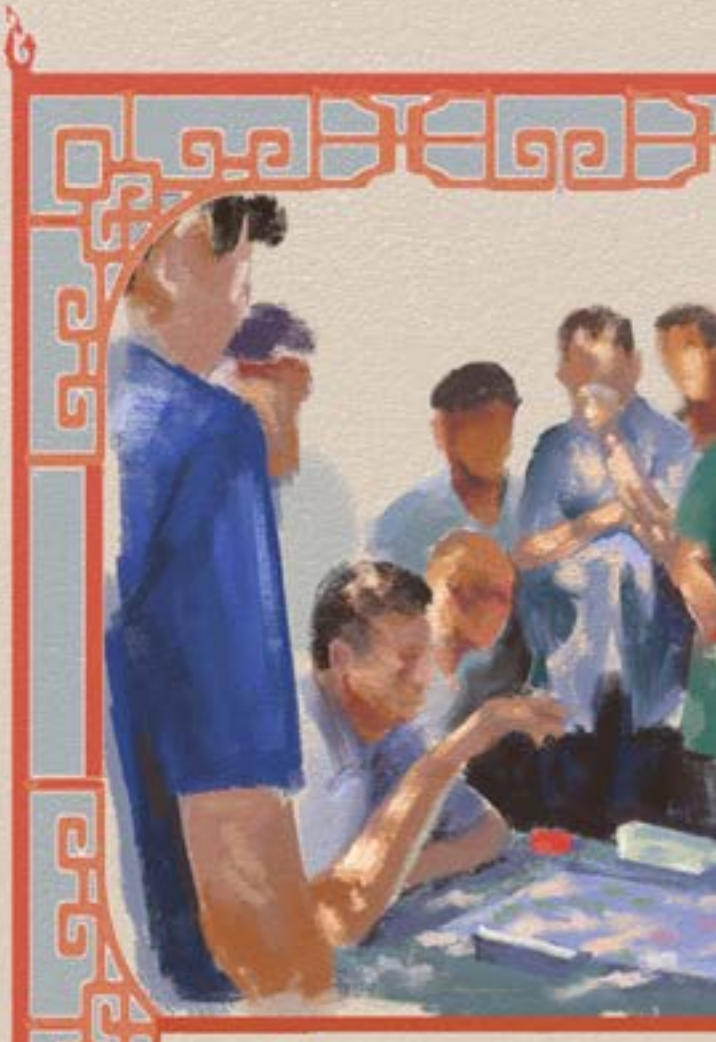
5

6

7

Cobbler and Medicin
the Manhattan

al Herb Shop Beneath
Bridge Overpass



Chinatown Residents
in Columbus Park as
Unsolicite

Play a Game of Xiangqi
Onlookers Provide
d Pointers

Shopping for Seafo
Mott Street; Catch

od at Wet Market on
of the Day - Lobster!

Locals C
Chinatown's P
Catch Up and

Gather in
ublic Spaces to
Make Friends

DAILY ACTIVITIES

- chinese chess, card games, gambling
- sit and eat takeout Chinese food
- musical performances, traditional Chinese musical instruments (erhu, cantonese opera)
- tai chi practice, wushu (with swords sometimes!)
- dance troupes
- elderly folks catching up with family and friends, in parks, bakeries, dim sum parlors
- locals go to public spaces after long day/on breaks to connect with friends
- shopping (kitchen ceramics, household equipment)
- groceries (street vendors, fish market, medicinal herbs)
- read newspaper
- calligraphy

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Chinese New Year

dragon + lion dance, firecrackers, parade, stay up late, give red envelopes to kids, offer sacrifices to ancestors, burn incense paper offerings, visit family/friends and eat their snacks, eat sweet dumplings, buy new clothes, make/put up decorations (red lanterns, spring couplets, paper cuttings, paintings)

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

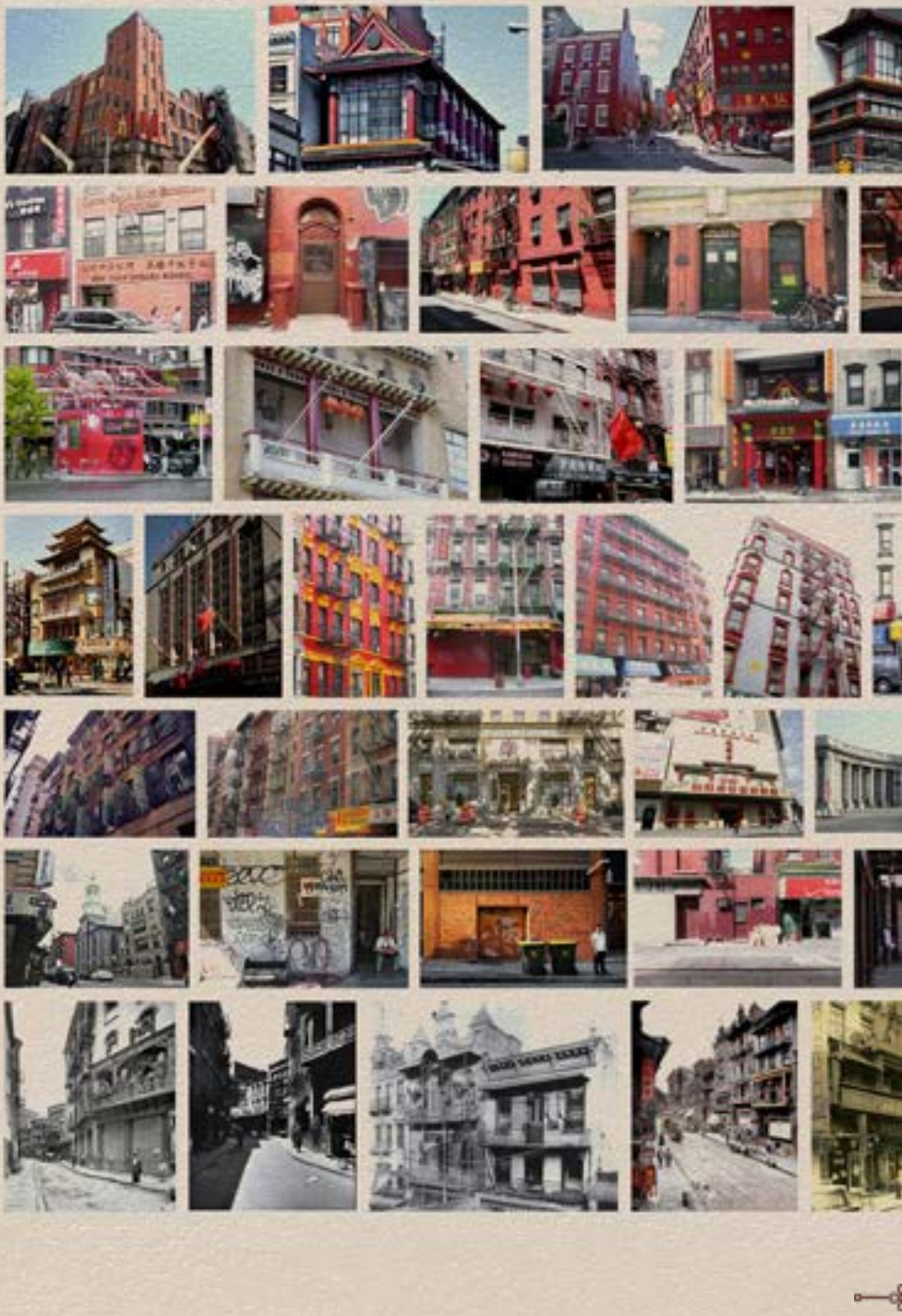
lantern making, go outside to look at moon together
share a mooncake, tell riddles, gather with family, drink osmanthus tea/wine, burn incense

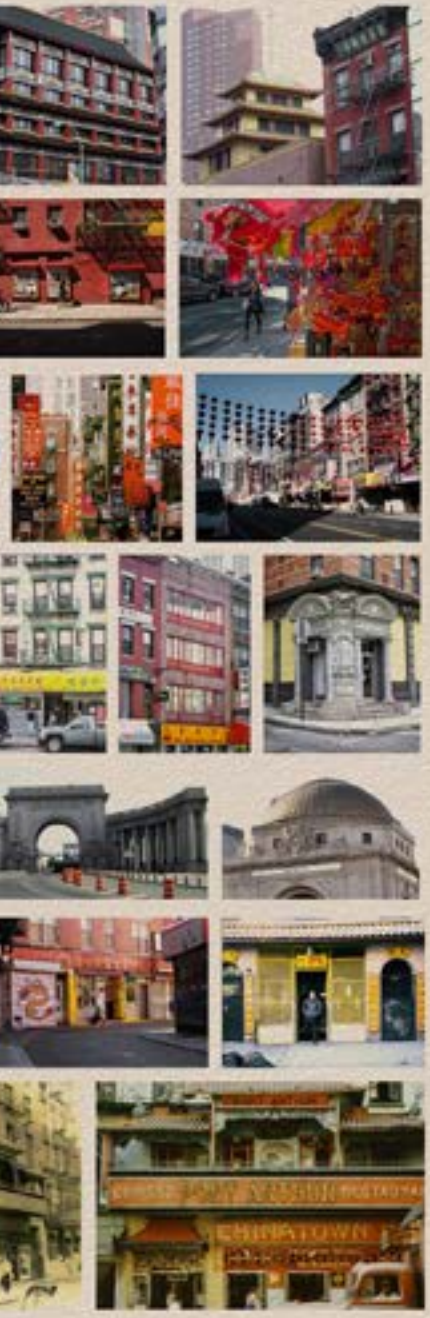
Dragon Boat Festival

make/eat zongzi (rice wrap), memorial ceremonies, drink wine, bathe in flower scented water, tie perfume pouches to kids clothing, hang plants, make paper cutouts, opera, make paper boats

Qingming Festival

give offerings to dead, eat cold food, fly kites, hang willow branches to drive evil spirits away, eat sazi (fried dough)





1. Fire escapes
2. Pagoda roof/motif, sloping tiled roofs, upturned eaves/roof corners
3. Federal & Greek Revival styles
4. Brick (tenement)
5. Store signage
6. gateways (1) Manhattan Bridge Landing and Colonnade; 2) Kimlau Square; 3) Division Street under Manhattan Bridge and 4) Pearl Street under Brooklyn Bridge
7. Bold Chinese plaques on facades
8. Color scheme: gold, red, green, yellow
9. Animal motifs: dragons, phoenixes, lions
10. Plant motifs: pine, bamboo, plum, crimson
11. Other motifs: lanterns, bowls, chopsticks
12. Rounded/circular/moonshaped doors, windows, archways
13. Decorative balustrades & frets
14. Tong lau: urban shophouse typology, tenement style
15. Second-story porches, projecting or recessed balconies
16. Red columns, extend vertically
17. Extended eaves (covering the main balconies)
18. Smooth/carved columns topped with cantilevered clusters of beans, flagpoles, and parapet walls bearing Chinese inscriptions
19. Asymmetrical stone/cast stone facades

sting Conditions

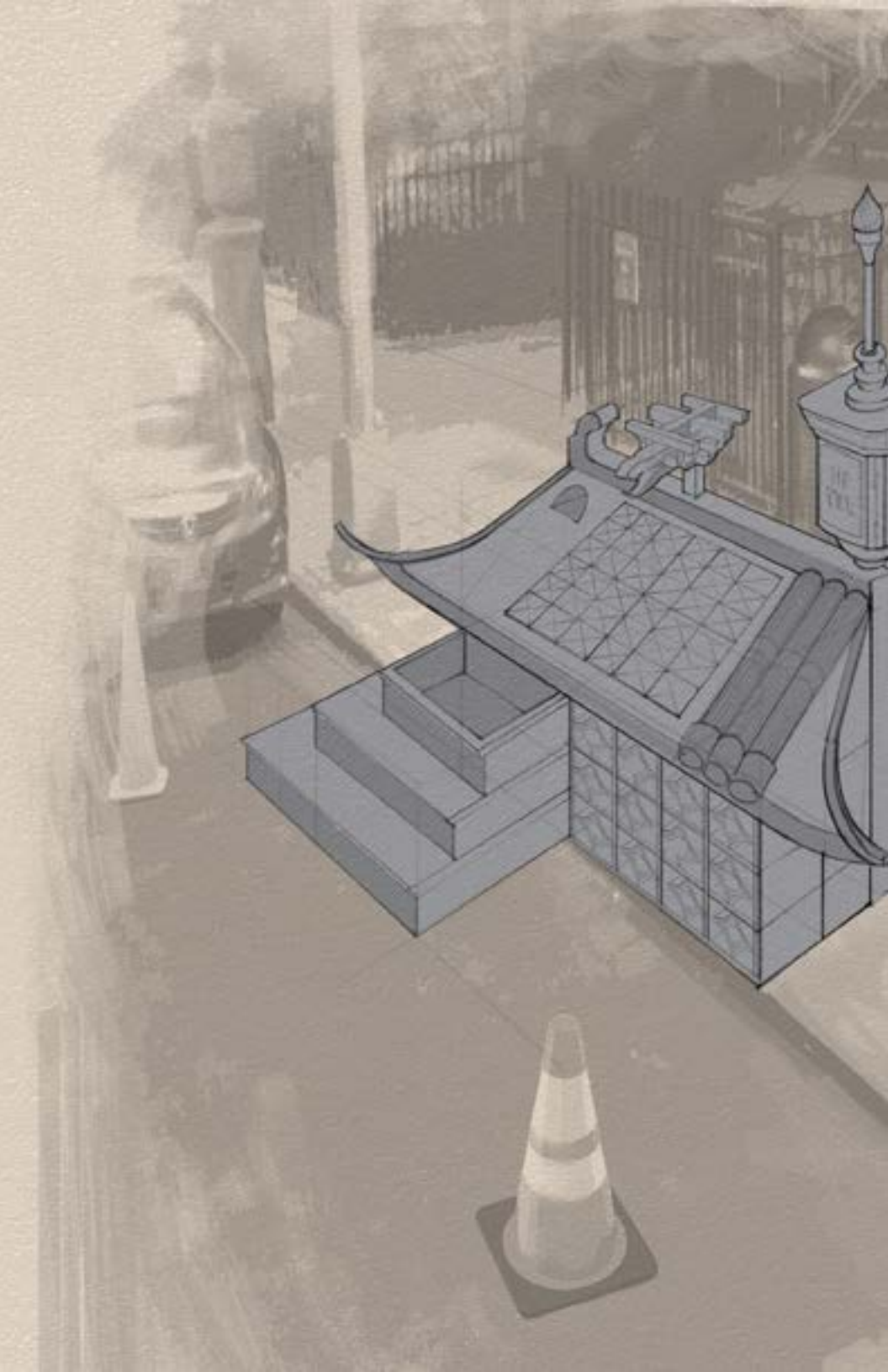
IUMBNAILS

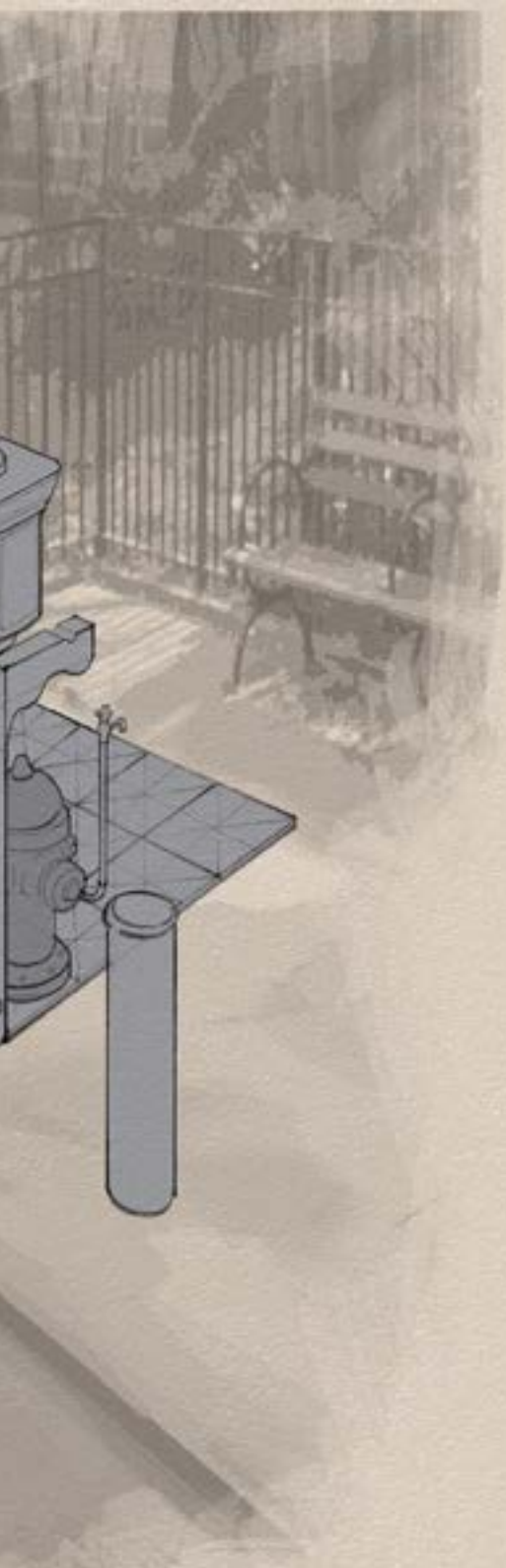
CALLIGRAPH

"I just want my children to call me some
and ask for more. My children have the
understand the difficulties they have.
handle my own business and woul

Y CUBICLE

TIMES. I DO NOT EXPECT THEM TO BE FILIAL
IR OWN FAMILIES TO TAKE CARE OF, AND I
I HAVE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE. I CAN
LD NOT CHOOSE TO BOTHER THEM."





CALLIGRAPHY CUBICLE

COLUMBUS PARK

DESIGN ELEMENTS

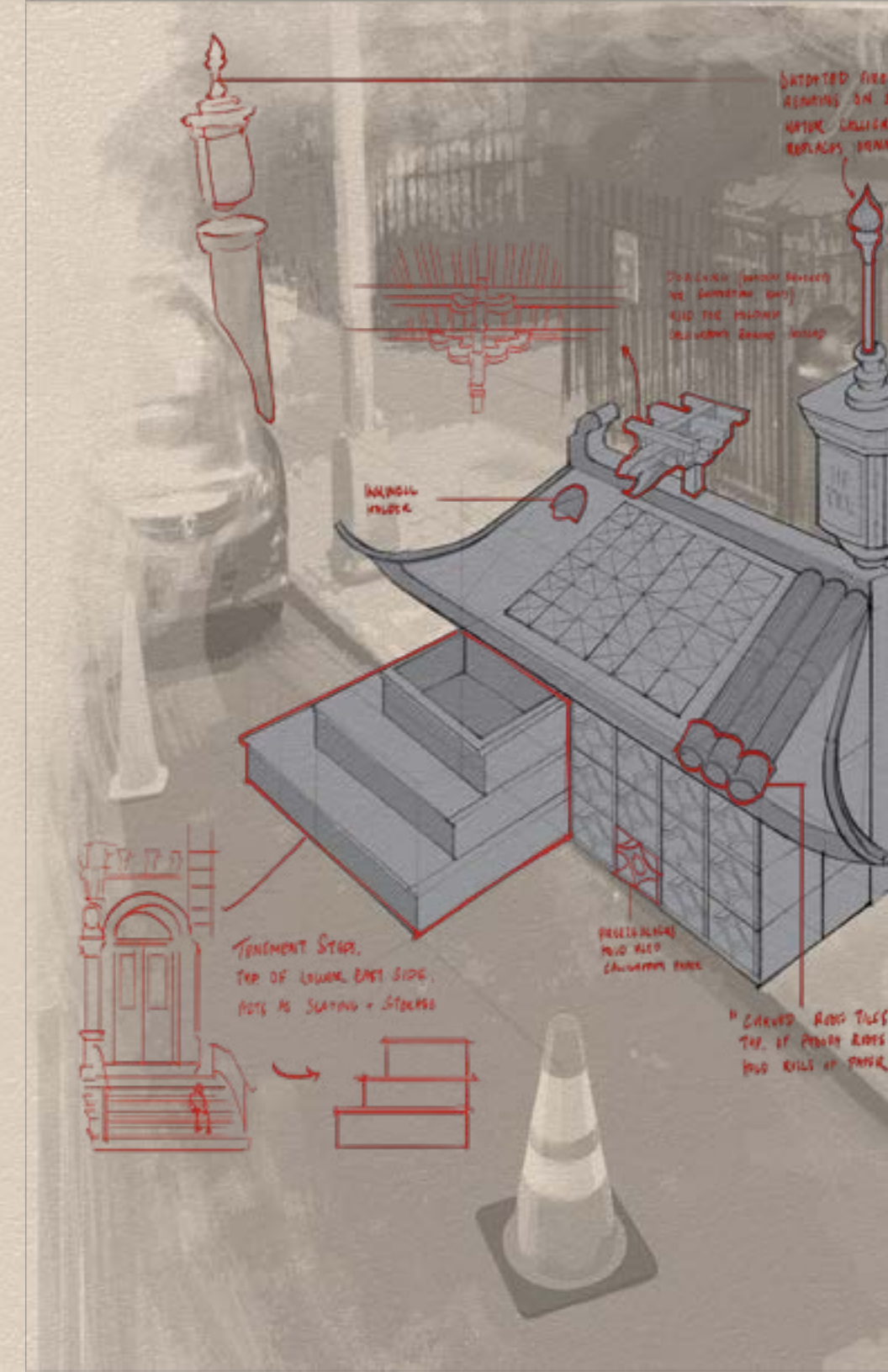
PROGRAM:
- Chinese calligraphy, water calligraphy
- step seating, storage
- water fountain

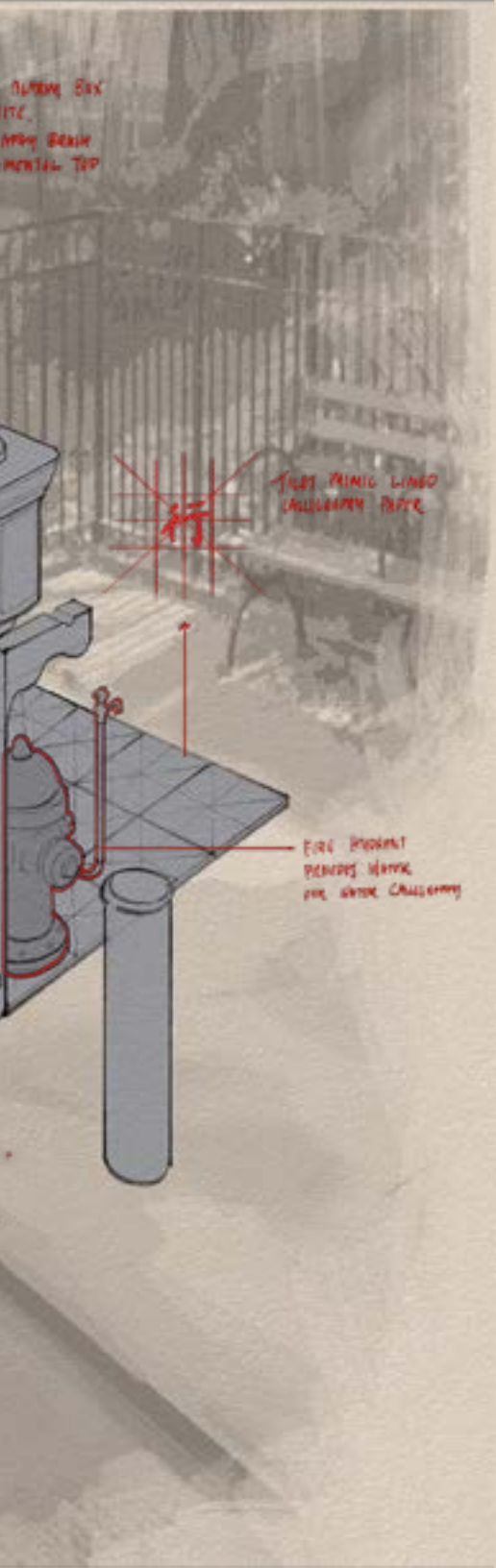
NYC ICON:
- fire alarm call box
- breeze blocks (51 Bayard St)
- tenement stoop

CHINESE MOTIF:
- dougong
- Chinese hipped roof + curved tiles

MISINTERPRETATION:
- fire alarm box + dougong as brush holders
- tenement steps as drawers
- breeze blocks + curved tiles hold scrolls

HUMOR:
- architectural elements act as bespoke equipment storage


TENEMENT STEPS.
TOP OF LOWER EAST SIDE.
PETE AS SCALING + STEPS



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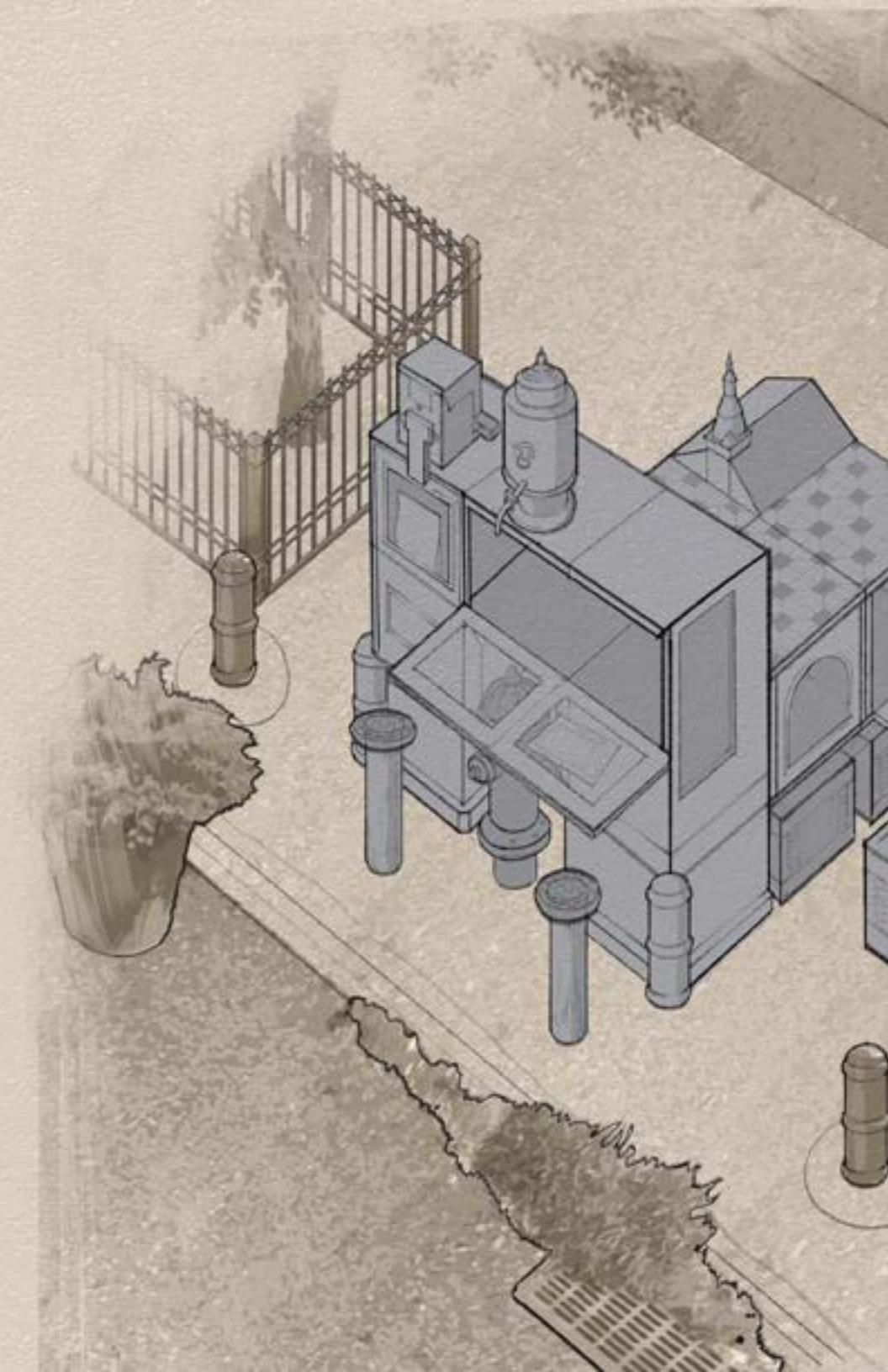
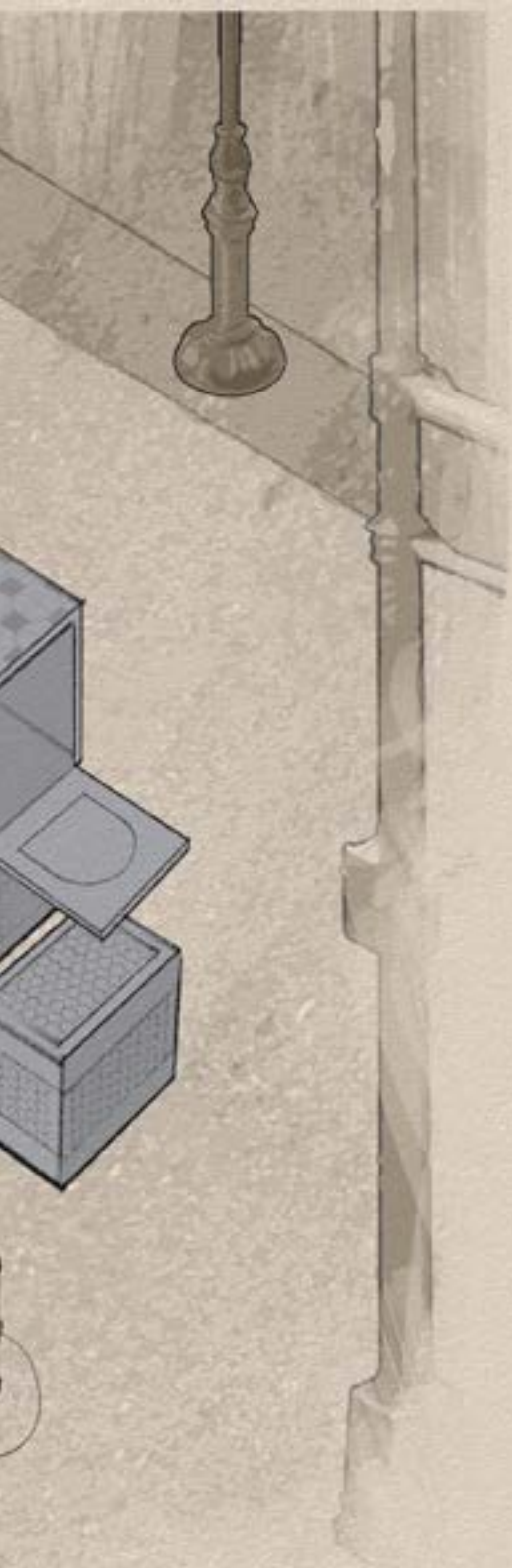
DINER DIS

"I think Chinatowns are a better place for u
others if we go out. I can't read or speak Engl
Living in Chinatown is good; at least you ca
It's more convenient for us to buy some st

s to live because we can't communicate with
lish, so I will not know where I am if I go out.
an communicate with each other in Chinese.
uff, and we can chat with the neighbors."





DINER DISPENSER

CONFUCIUS PLAZA

DESIGN ELEMENTS

PROGRAM:
- reading newspaper
- drinking coffee/tea
- socializing
- people watching

NYC ICON:
- newspaper dispenser
- plastic milk crates
- Church of the Transfiguration

CHINESE MOTIF:
- Hong Kong style diner
- half-moon window motif

MISINTERPRETATION:
- plastic milk crate as seating, tea kettle as coin receptacle of newspaper dispenser

HUMOR:
- ubiquitous street element, turned socializing hotspot

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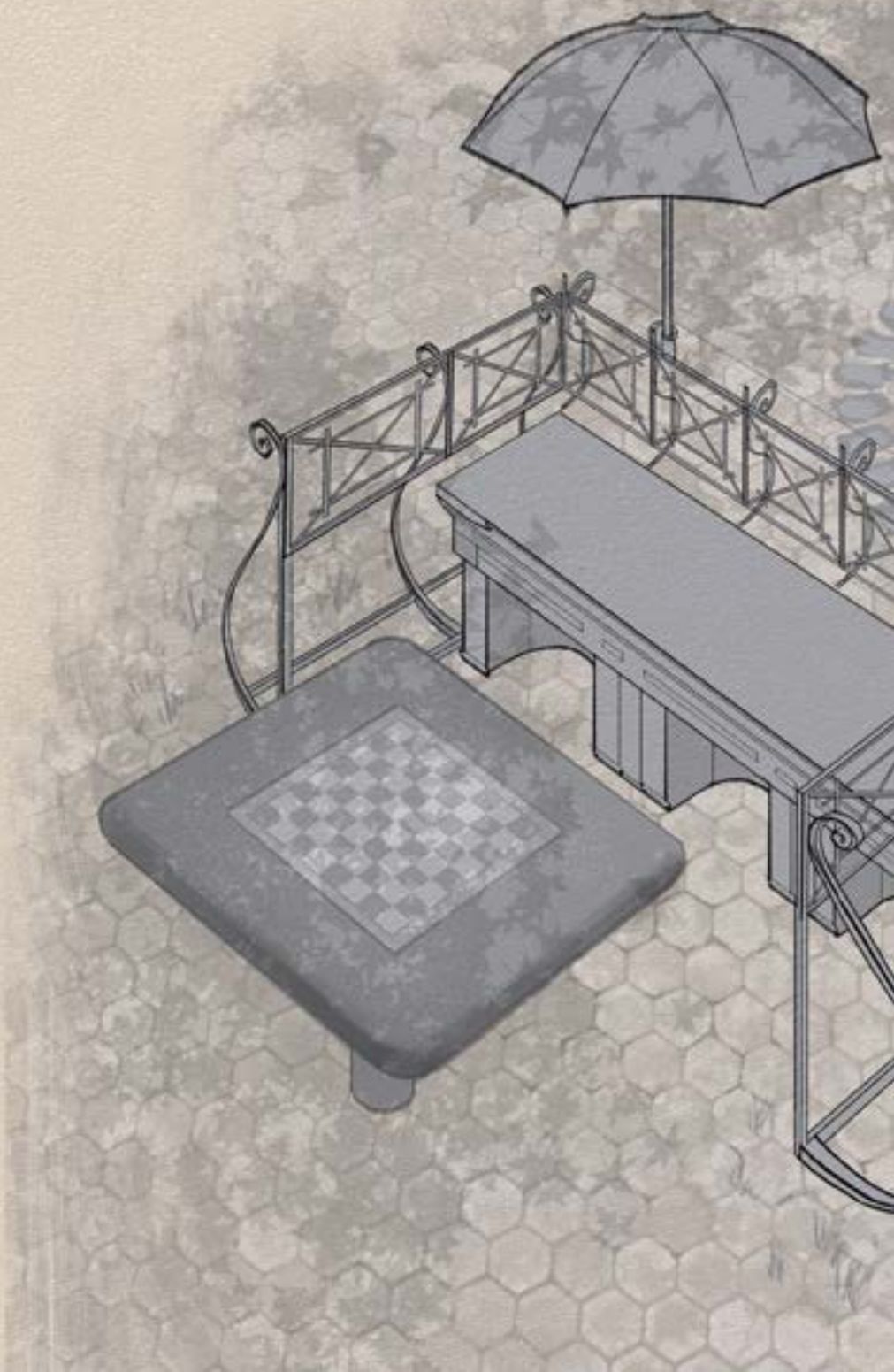
PARKING

"I live with my daughter, but we don't tal
When I get up, she is still sleeping. She com
son lives at [a nearby area]. We don't talk t
listen to you. I will call my children if nee
sometimes,

k much. My daughter goes to work every day.
es back after we have already gone to bed. My
o them much, and they also don't have time to
ded. Sometimes they may return the call, and
they may not."



PARKING BENCH

COLUMBUS PARK

DESIGN ELEMENTS

PROGRAM:
- games, gambling, gathering
- shaded rest area
- shopping trolley parking
- grocery bag hanging storage
- oversized bag storage under bench

NYC ICON:
- facade of 21 Pell St. (First Chinese Baptist Church)
- fire escape wrought iron ornament

CHINESE MOTIF:
- symmetrical, cast stone facade
- umbrella (symbol of power)

MISINTERPRETATION:
- bench hardware as hooks/umbrella holder
- fire escape = bike rack = cart parking

HUMOR:
- elaborate exaggeration of existing appropriations of park benches

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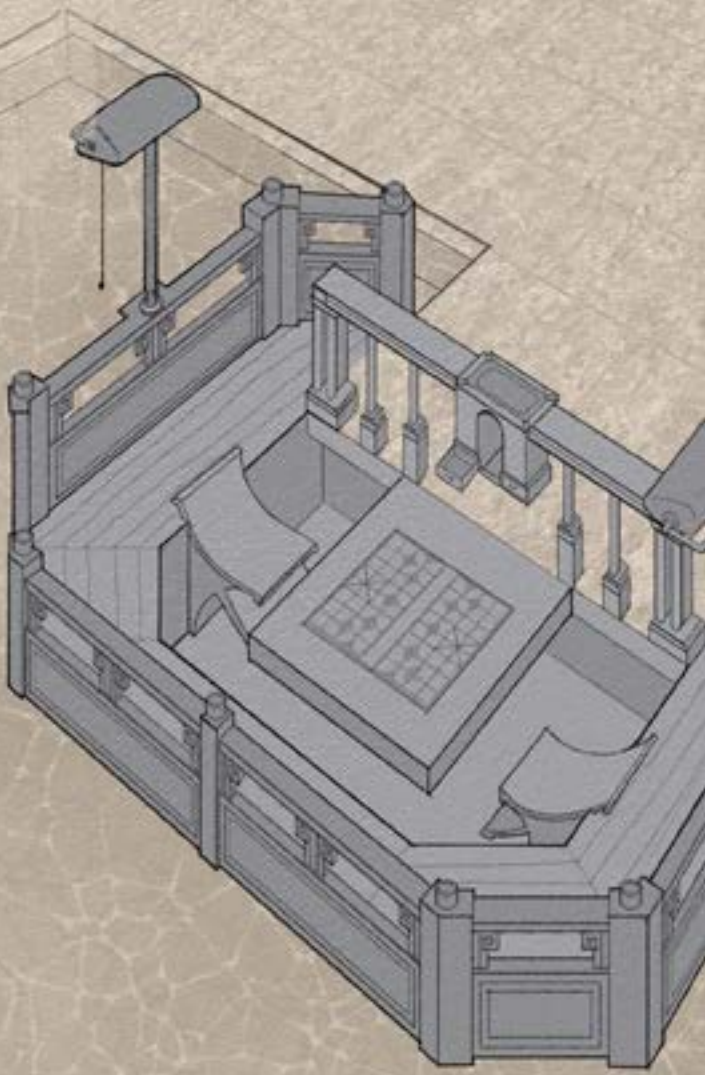
POND PL

"I want to remain in a positive mindset. I real
getting old. I hate to b

AY PIT

LY DON'T WANT TO RELY ON OTHERS WHEN I AM
OTHER MY CHILDREN."



POND PLAY PIT

COLLECT POND PARK

DESIGN ELEMENTS

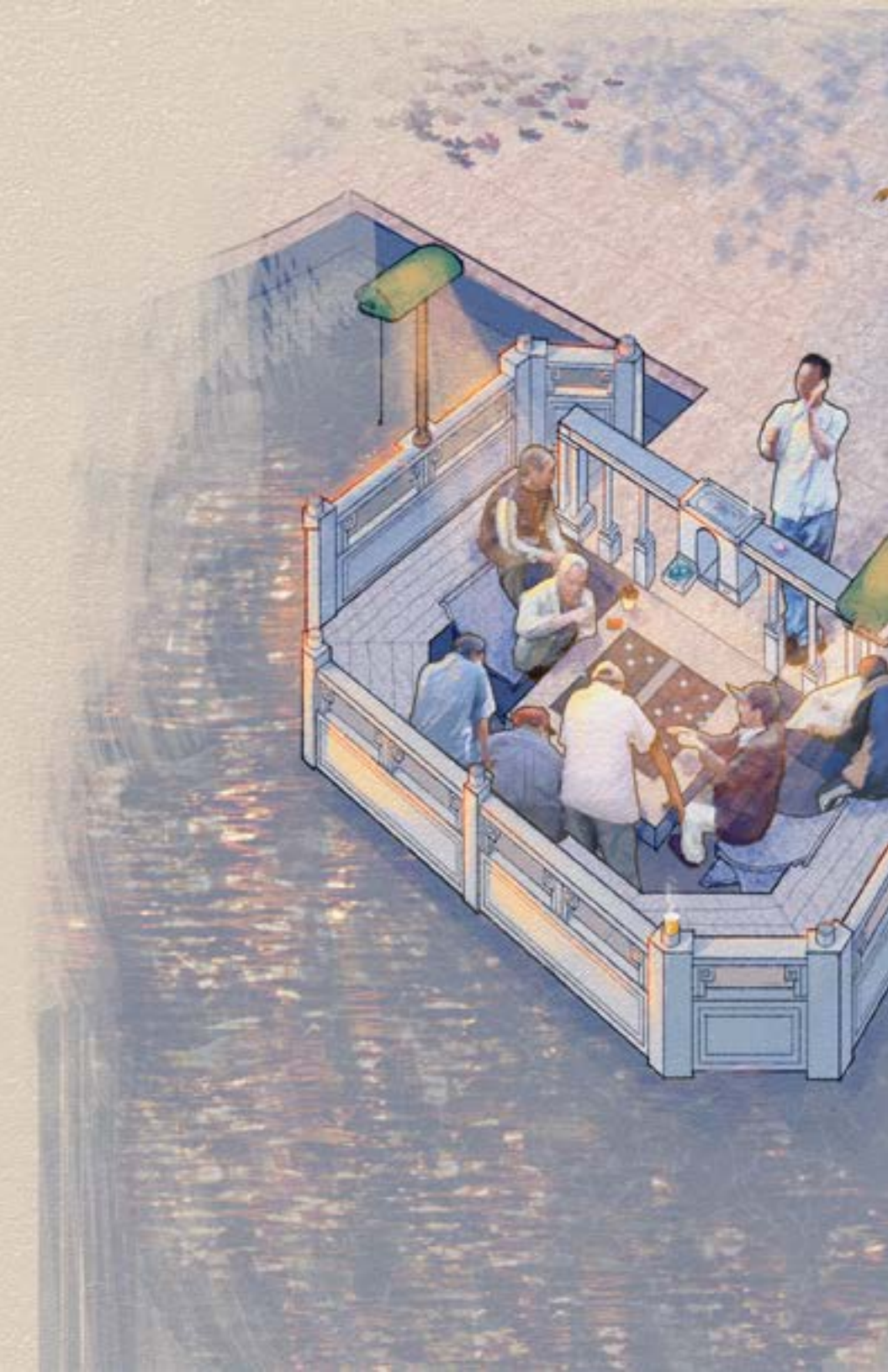
PROGRAM:
- xiangqi (Chinese chess), gambling
- spectating
- smoking, drinking coffee/tea

NYC ICON:
- On Leong Tong balcony railings
- Manhattan Bridge arch
- wooden park bench
- Collect Pond Park chairs

CHINESE MOTIF:
- banker's lamp
- ornate stone railing
- Chinese water garden

MISINTERPRETATION:
- table as extension of platform
- Manhattan Bridge gate = railing

HUMOR:
- tranquil space for ~~24/7~~ gambling, evocative of Chinese gardens (a model of profound philosophical thinking)



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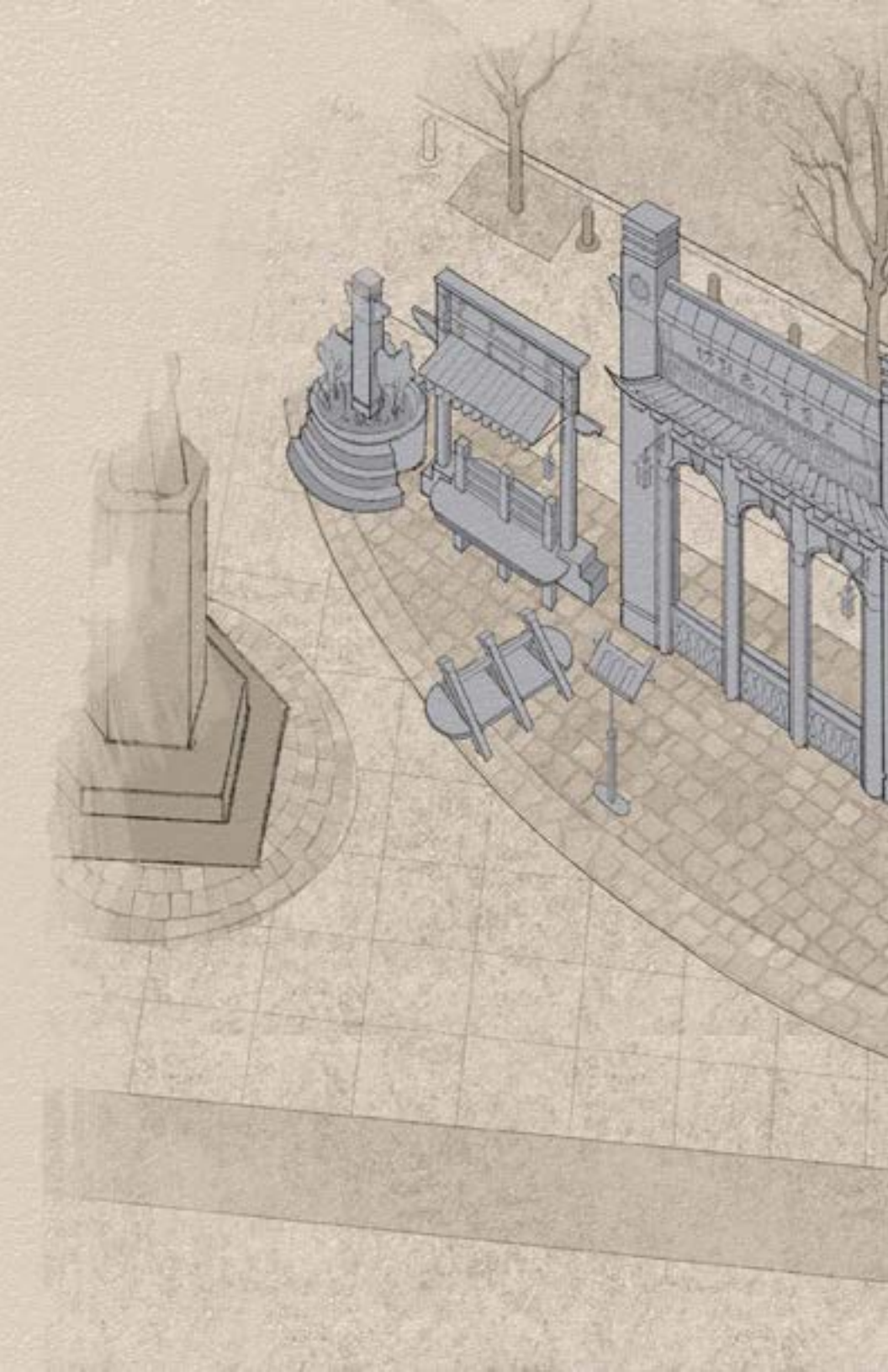
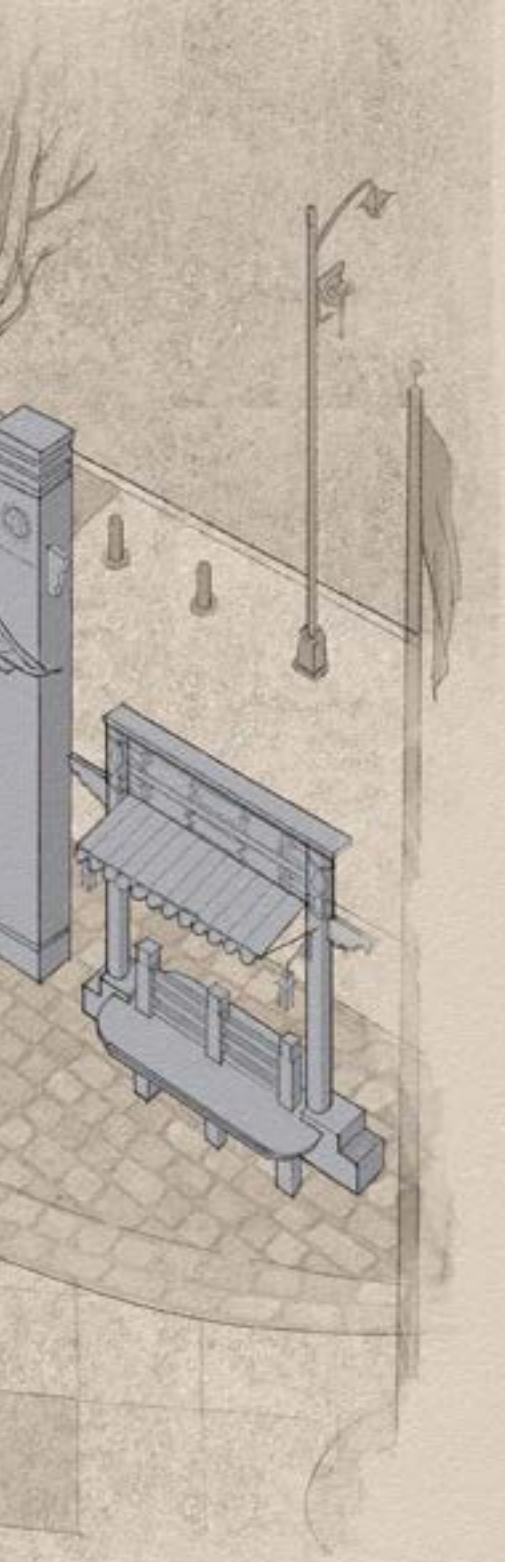
POP-UP P

"As an old Chinese saying goes, a falling lea
staying here, and it is not an ide

AF RETURNS THE ROOTS. I NEVER THINK ABOUT
CAL PLACE FOR ME TO LIVE HERE."





POP-UP PODIUM

KIMLAU SQUARE

DESIGN ELEMENTS

PROGRAM:
- large gatherings
- performance, stage
- informal memorials

NYC ICON:
- tenement facade
- storefront awnings
- Kimlau Memorial

CHINESE MOTIF:
- pagoda roof
- paifang gateway
- Chinese opera stage

MISINTERPRETATION:
- monument as backdrop
- awning as pagoda roof

HUMOR:
- collapsible, temporary furniture imitating permanent, historically-preserved structure

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CUBBY

"I don't know much about other Chinatowns
outside. It is great for people living on 8th A
buy things within wa

CART

S IN THE CITY AND HAVE NO INTEREST IN GOING
VE BECAUSE WE KNOW THE LANGUAGE AND CAN
LKABLE DISTANCE."

STOP

CUBBY CART

CANAL STREET

DESIGN ELEMENTS

PROGRAM:
- street vendor cart for selling produce/food
- storage for street vendor paraphernalia
- seating for eating food on street

NYC ICON:
- tenement decorative window trim + cornice
- street vendor cart

CHINESE MOTIF:
- facade of 241 Canal St, across from site (Chinese temple ornament)
- Chinese garden pavilion roof

MISINTERPRETATION:
- umbrella transformed into Chinese garden pavilion roof
- cornice as shelf storage

HUMOR:
- elaborate structure for a typically temporary/makeshift cart

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THE PERCH

"We are old men. We like bringing the birds

& CHIRP

AND DRINKING THE COFFEE. WE FEEL BETTER."

THE PERCH & CHIRP

Hua Mei Bird Garden

Design Elements

PROGRAM:
- bird singing competition
- bird watching
- eating breakfast
- comparing photos of birds

NYC ICON:
- tenement windows
- tenement storefronts
- tenement cornice /corbel
- park railing

CHINESE MOTIF:
- traditional bamboo bird cage
- phoenix decorative motif

MISINTERPRETATION:
- park railing as bench
- scale of bird cage transformed

HUMOR:
- not birdhouse, but bird apartment
- users experience bird cage as if they are bird-sized

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